

Catholic Parish of the Good Shepherd

Hurunui District, Catholic Diocese of Christchurch



Eleventh Sunday in Ordinary Time

12 June 2016

the positive spin on sin

I was inspired during the week by three retreat sessions given by Pope Francis to priests earlier this month. The pope is clearly comfortable in the role of retreat leader, and his Jesuit formation gives him a robust familiarity with the techniques of Ignatius Loyola, the founder of the Society of Jesus and the one who with his *Spiritual Exercises* provided arguably the most widely used template for Christian growth in faith.

talking about sin

Like Ignatius, Pope Francis is not afraid to talk about sin and its sinister and sometimes fatal effects. But these two masters don't simply speak about sin and its consequences. Their focus is on the love and mercy of God. Pope Francis puts it this way:

"When we meditate on mercy, something special happens. The dynamic of the Spiritual Exercises [of St. Ignatius] takes on new power... We never cease to be in need of renewed conversion, deeper contemplation and greater love. These three three phases intertwine and recur. Nothing unites us to God more than an act of mercy - and this is not an exaggeration: nothing unites us to God more than an act of mercy - for it is by mercy that the Lord forgives our sins and gives us the grace to practise acts of mercy in his name. Nothing strengthens our faith more than being cleansed of our sins."

Put simply, if we do not acknowledge our sins and turn to Jesus, we cannot receive the ultimate faith-strengthening experience. Without God's mercy we are nothing.

King David

Today's Sunday scriptures give us some great examples of the mercy of God meeting human sin and weakness.

In the first reading we meet King David. You will have heard of him - killing the giant Goliath with a slingshot or magnificently sculpted by Michelangelo in Florence. David was the first king of the united Israel and a pretty talented guy. But he was also a sinner as we hear in this reading.

In the chapter preceding today's 12th chapter (2 Samuel) David is having a lazy spring day when he should have been out fighting battles. Spring was the time for battles because armies were again on the move after being grounded for the winter. But David was shirking his responsibility. He spots the beautiful Bathsheba (the wife of Uriah the Hittite who away for a couple of months fighting spring battles like all good soldiers) and decided that Bathsheba was too beautiful to be alone, and, well, pretty soon Bathsheba is pregnant. David is worried to say the least because the penalty for adultery, even for a king,

is death by stoning, and if Uriah doesn't get home soon then everyone will put two and two together...

So King David sends a message to Uriah that he is to get home to his wife immediately. But Uriah, being a loyal soldier remains with his troops and tells the King that he will not abandon his armies to go to his wife. David even gets Uriah drunk in the hope that this would turn his thoughts to a night with his wife, but still he did not abandon his duty. Eventually the king has no option but to send

Uriah to the front line where (as King David now intended) he was killed, and David (as you might expect) marries his widow.

In today's reading (from chapter 12 of 2 Samuel) David realises his sin (thanks to a clever parable from Nathan the prophet) and he confesses:

*Then David said to Nathan,
"I have sinned against the Lord."*

and the prophet assures David that because he has humbly acknowledge his sin before God, the sin is forgiven:

*Nathan answered David:
"The Lord on his part has forgiven your sin. You shall not die."*

Today's gospel reading show the affection of Jesus for the repentant sinner, even when the good religious people are scandalised by the abundance of God's mercy Jesus assures the sinner "Your sins are forgiven."

If we have no real sense of our own sin, we have a serious problem since have no capacity for the mercy of God. If we are regularly shaken and shamed by the reality of our rejection of God's love, especially in our treatment of other people, we are ready for God.

The path for us is clear. As the second reading reminds us very powerfully in the words of one of the greatest sinner saints, Paul, the way to the abundance of life we seek is not given in a method or a technique, not in words or theories, but through a person, the person of Jesus Christ who is the merciful God among us.

As if a simple reminder of the name of the one who saves us from sin is not enough Paul repeats the name of Jesus half a dozen times in a brief paragraph. Listen for this clear focus on Jesus in Sunday's second reading. **J.O'C**

*"Lord,
forgive the wrong
I have done"*

Psalm 32

maintaining beauty

I have spent most of this week at a library desk at the university where I will spend the next few weeks to complete (please God) my studies. The library, and every other part of the campus is beautiful. The first buildings constructed in the 1920's include the dormitory rooms where we students live. In my room the timber flooring, desk, chair, and bathroom fittings are almost a century old.

To maintain this campus of buildings and all they contain is a major task. The quality of the original design and construction is a great help to the maintenance staff, but still a team of workers is needed supported by a substantial budget.

All of this attention to the beauty of the place is because the university is a place that the Archdiocese of Chicago and many other people value greatly. Simply, they consider it worth spending time, talent and treasure on this treasure, especially when so many other institutions are discarding what is beautiful and replacing with what is affordable and low-maintenance.

Here in our Good Shepherd parish we have five of the most beautiful and oldest churches in the country, Generations of parishioners have taken great care and given generously of their time, talent and treasure to see that these treasures are beautifully maintained. We will honour their memory by following their example.

It is easy to slip into maintaining beautiful buildings in a way that is simply adequate and low-maintenance. However with the buildings we love we always try to do better.

One example is the church windows at Hawarden which are in need of replacing. As the job was approved the gold-tint glass that was needed to maintain the original beauty was suddenly unavailable at the quoted price and the temptation was to use un-tinted glass. However we have decided to search for and find the glass that retains the original beauty of this beautiful church.

The budget for the completion of the presbytery at Amberley included the sealing of the driveway and carpark with some landscaping at the front of the church. Due to considerable donations of planting, labour, and talent we are able to complete this area in a way far exceeds our original plan, and will be more beautiful than before creating a welcoming and peaceful garden narthex for this 150 year old church.

Thank you to those who are supporting and enabling this beautification of our parish churches. **J.O'C**



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Catholic Hurunui

HOSPITAL CHAPLAINS. Most hospitals no longer provide names of Catholic patients to our chaplains. If someone from your family going to hospital please advise the chaplain: Burwood: Kirsten Challies 027 437 6737 Christchurch Hospital: Angela McCormick 364 0640 (x89554) Hillmorton: Gloria Magee 022 186 1734 Princess Margaret: Gloria Magee 022 186 1734 St George's: Fr Chris Orr 351 9502

THE CATHOLIC SHOP is now in its new location 373 Manchester Street (next to St Mary's). Parking available. Phone 366 2853, email catholicshop@chch.catholic.org.nz Open 9am – 5pm Monday to Friday. Gift cards, candles, rosaries, First Communion and Baptism gifts.

ACTIV8 PRO-LIFE INTERNSHIP Monday 4 - Friday 8 July Ferndale Lodge, Carey Park Christian Camp Auckland Full details and registration www.family.org.nz/internship2016

PETERSGATE COUNSELLING Centre has two vacancies: Clinical Manager and Office Administrator. These are pivotal roles in our busy Counselling Agency and we need appropriately skilled people. Contact for Job Descriptions is by phone 343-3391 or email manager@petersgate.org.nz Applications for the Office Administrator close 15th June and for the Clinical Manager close on 29th June.

Thinking Diocesan Priesthood? Speak to any priest or contact Vocations Director Fr. John O'Connor vocations.chch@gmail.com

WYD in Christchurch. On July 29th to August 2nd Catholic Cathedral and Marian Colleges are hosting a Companion event to the World Youth Day in Krakow for the Secondary School Colleges in the South Island. We are anticipating 240 students of Catholic Colleges will attend this event that includes Pilgrimage, Service, Catechesis and Worship.

Hastings Hibernian Catholic Education Trust The Hastings Hibernian Catholic Education Trust was set up to mark the Centennial of St. Joseph's Branch No. 172 of the New Zealand District of the Hibernian Catholic Benefit Society. Applications are now called for from those who meet the criteria of needing financial assistance for the furtherance of their education. This assistance may be in the form of supplementing costs of fees, books, and travel and/or accommodation overheads. Funding is for High School education only. More information from the parish office.

Every expression of true beauty can thus be acknowledged as a path leading to an encounter with the Lord Jesus. This has nothing to do with fostering an aesthetic relativism which would downplay the inseparable bond between truth, goodness and beauty, but rather a renewed esteem for beauty as a means of touching the human heart and enabling the truth and goodness of the Risen Christ to radiate within it.

*Pope Francis
The Joy of the Gospel #167*

Weekday Mass Timetable

Amberley Church

Monday, Tuesday, Thursday & Friday at 9.00am

Community of the Beatitudes

Wednesday at 12noon

Hanmer Springs

with priests gathered for a "Solidarity" meeting

Tuesday, Wednesday & Thursday at 12 noon

Confessions

Tuesday 8.40am at Amberley

Wednesday after Mass at Beatitudes

Saturday 10.00am - 10.30 at Amberley

& anytime by arrangement with a priest.

Mass times and other parish information is available on the parish website at www.catholicurunui.nz

Let us continue to pray

*for the happy repose of the soul of
Bishop Barry Jones.*

*Pray too that all those involved in the process of
appointing his successor will be open to the
guidance of the Holy Spirit.*

*Let us also pray with the diocese of Dunedin for
the happy repose of the soul of their Emeritus
Bishop Len Boyle who was buried this past week
May he also rest in peace*

Youth Ministry Training Day Saturday June 25th, 9am-5pm. This day is an opportunity for leaders and potential leaders in a variety of different sectors to come together, share ideas, learn more about how to effectively lead & communicate with young people. Contact Thomas Saywell at CYT For more details: tsaywell@chch.catholic.org.nz / 027 268 4137

Eucharistic Adoration Retreat The Perpetual Adoration Chapel has now been operating for three years in the Diocese. There is an opportunity to learn more about Perpetual Adoration, and to visit the chapel, during a one-day retreat being held on Saturday July 2nd entitled "I will be with you always". There will be talks, Mass, adoration and quiet time. The retreat is open to all and will be held at St Gregory's Parish Centre.



www.foodforfaith.org.nz
read, watch & listen
with Fr. John O'Connor
& on Facebook & Twitter

Let us continue to keep in our prayer the many benefactors of our parish of the Good Shepherd:

- + those who have given generously over the 150 years that Mass has been celebrated in the Hurunui,
- + Those who give through their positive conversation, presence and prayer for our parish
- + Those who contribute financially to our parish.

WITH THE MOVE of the presbytery to Amberley the postal address and phone number for the presbytery and office remain the same. You will always be able to contact a priest on the 03 319 8730 number. If the phone is not answered leave a message and you will have a response within the hour. The catholicurunui@gmail.com email is received simultaneously by Fr. John and Sarah, and will also deliver a very quick response.

Fr. Jack O'Connor can be contacted on the presbytery phone number 03 319 8730. or via the parish office at catholicurunui@gmail.com.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS. A summary financial report for the year ended 31 March 2016 is available in churches this weekend. This summary is also on the parish website together with the full financial statements.

WORLD YOUTH DAY 2016

Thirty eight young people (aged 18-35) from our diocese of Christchurch will travel on pilgrimage to Europe visiting Rome, Assisi, Lourdes & Paris before joining an estimated two million young people from around the world for the World Youth Days in Krakow Poland with Pope Francis. The pilgrimage is from July 11 until August 4. I am delighted to share with you that two of the pilgrimage group are parishioners of our own Good Shepherd Parish. World Youth Day began 30 years ago and is held every three years, the last being in Rio in 2013. The pilgrimage is an intense experience of the beauty and depth of Catholic faith. Pray for all young people as they prepare for the event.



RACE NIGHT John Paul II Centre for Life Race Night Friday 9 September 2016 @ Addington. This year we are planning on booking a table or three for Good Shepherd Hurunui parishioners and their friends. More information will follow, but for the moment put the date in your diary. Tickets will be \$50.00 per person and include the cost of dinner.

*We remain united in prayer for the healing of
Kate Davis. With the Carmelites sisters, and
Kate's family and friends we pray:*

May the Spirit of God

be close to Kate
to renew and uplift her
and to pour gifts of healing upon her,
strengthen her and comfort her,
enfolding Kate in love to protect her.
Lighten Kate's burden of illness
and bestow peace in mind and body,

Bless Kate's loving husband Jim, her children, and all her family, friends and members of the parish
with much strength and peace.

We thank you Lord for hearing this prayer we make for Kate's healing through the intercession of Our Lady and all the Saints.

Through Christ Our Lord,
Amen.